

## Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SCCT-02 NEA-10 OMB-01 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 SY-03 OPR-02 EUR-25 SIL-01 LAB-06

XMB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 DRC-01 /201 W

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R 251245Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2572

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EMIN, ET

SUBJECT: ELF ATTACK ON ETHIO-NIPPON MINING

1. ON MARCH 23, AT 5:15 P.M., NINE TO TEN MAN ELEMENT OF GENERAL COMMAND SECTION OF ELF ATTACKED DEBAWA SITE OF ETHIO-NIPPON MINING. THEY ATTACKED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND GRENADES. THE ELF GROUP IMPLANTED THEIR BLUE FLAG AT THE SITE AND SCATTERED LEAFLETS WHICH WERE RETRIEVED BY THE POLICE. APPARENT PURPOSE WAS TO DESTROY PROPERTY AND NOT KILL PERSONNEL. GUARD AT GENERATOR WHICH WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED WAS TOLD TO MOVE AWAY. WHEN THE GENERATOR, WHICH SUPPLIED LIGHT AND AIR, WAS DESTROYED THERE WAS DANGER TO THE MINERS REMAINING IN THE MINING SHAFT. HOWEVER, NO CASUALTIES WERE INCURRED AT THE MINE. TWO MEN IDENTIFIED AS GUARDS AT A VILLAGE SCHOOL WERE KILLED AS THE ELF WERE FLEEING. MR. SUGISAKA, MANAGER OF THE ETHIO-NIPPON MINING ASMARA OFFICE, SAID HE FOUND EXPLOSIVES WITH RUSSIAN MARKINGS.

2. MR. SUGISAKA APPEARED DISMAYED AT WHY THEY WOULD BE ATTACKED, SINCE THEY ARE CREATING EMPLOYMENT AND GENERATING

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR ETHIOPIA. I THEN SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLY

ELF DID NOT WANT A PROSPEROUS ERITREA UNDER THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. SUGISAKA THEN SAID THAT AN ELF REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS MADE A STATEMENT A MONTH AGO PUBLISHED IN LE MONDE AND THE JAPANESE PRESS THAT THEY DID NOT WANT MINERALS EXPORTED FROM ERITREA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED NO WARNING LOCALLY.

3. TENNACO REPRESENTATIVES VISITED MR. SUGISAKA YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT. THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT \$2 TO \$3 MILLION.

4. THERE IS SOME DISCONTENT IN ASMARA AMONG BUSINESS AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES THAT THE COPPER IS BEING EXPORTED IN BULK AND NOT REFINED IN ETHIOPIA. THIS COULD BE EVIDENCE OF ECONOMIC NATIONALISM THAT MAY BECOME MORE WIDE-SPREAD IN THE FUTURE.  
PERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARAMILITARY FORCES, ARMS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, POLICE FORCES, MINING INDUSTRY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ASMARA00195  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740063-0757  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ELF ATTACK ON ETHIO-NIPPON MINING  
**TAGS:** PINS, EMIN, ET, ELF, ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT, ETHIO-NIPPON MINING  
**To:** STATE ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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